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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, on a personal representation made by the hon. Member I got these instructions issued to the Collectors. I have also heard complaints of blackmarketing, etc., referred to by the hon. Member."

SRI V. K. PALANISAMY GOUNDER :—" With a view to popularising the sale of sulphate of ammonia, will the Government issue revised instructions to the Collectors to increase the number of distribution agencies in each firka?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, when we are not able to get our requirements from the Central Fertilizer Pool, it is not good to increase the number of dealers."

SRI A. K. MASILAMANY CHETTIAR :—"இதற்கு மாத்திரம் கண்ட்ரோல் வைத்துக்கொண்டு இருப்பதால் விவசாயிகளுக்கு சரியான முறையில் உரம் வினியோகிக்கப்படுவது கிடையாது. ஆகவே இதைத் தடுப்பதற்குக் கண்ட்ரோலை ஏன் எடுக்கக்கூடாது? அதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன என்று சொல்ல முடியுமா?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Control is necessary because we do not have sufficient supply of sulphate of ammonia."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" மன்னார்குடி தாலுகாவில் இந்த உரம் வினியோகிப்பது சம்பந்தமாக இந்த சபையின் அங்கத்தினரான ஸ்ரீ ராமலிங்கம் நேரடியாக மந்திரியைப் பார்த்து எழுதிகொடுத்தபோது ஆலோசிப்பதாகக் கூறியது ஞாபகம் இருக்கிறதா? இதுபற்றி என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்பட்டது?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Just now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition reminds me of the personal representations made by the hon. Member Sri Ramalingam. I forgot about it. But I did have representations in writing also. I have heard so many other representations also. I have forwarded the representations to the department. I have also asked the Secretary in-charge to go into them and call for a report from the Collector and take necessary action."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Supplementary questions on these two questions are over. We have got 19 more questions to finish in ten minutes."

Supply of medicines to the Local Fund Dispensary at Quilandy, North Malabar.

* 42 *Q.*—SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state— 11-50 a.m.

(*a*) the amount sanctioned for medicine for a year to the Local Fund Dispensary, Quilandy, Kurumbranad taluk, North Malabar; and

(*b*) whether the Government intend increasing the amount sanctioned?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The costs of medicine actually supplied to the dispensary during the three years from 1951 are given below :—

Year.	RS.
1951–52	4,096
1952–53	2,284
1953–54	5,582

For the year 1954–55, a sum of Rs. 3,500 has been sanctioned by the District Board, Malabar.

" (b) No, Sir."

SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP :—" Sir, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state on what basis the amount for medicines in local dispensaries is generally sanctioned? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It depends on the number of patients, Sir."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, the average daily out-patient strength of that hospital is 300 and then the entire cost of the medicine for the whole year is Rs. 3,000. Is this not absolutely inadequate and does not the hospital become a farce so far as the patients are concerned? Will the Government seriously consider increasing the amount on medicine at least ten-fold? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is desirable to discourage unnecessary medication, Sir."

Prohibition of crossword puzzles and cotton market betting.

* 43 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the present Cabinet are considering any proposal to levy a tax on or to prohibit the crossword puzzles and cotton market betting; and

(b) if so, when?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) At present there is no proposal pending with this Government for levying tax on or prohibiting crossword puzzles. Cotton market betting is already prohibited by law.

" (b) Does not arise."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know, Sir, under what law cotton betting is prohibited and may I also know whether the Hon. Finance Minister knows what cotton betting is and how the game is played? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am sorry, Sir, I have no personal experience of cotton market betting. It is prohibited under the City Police Act within the City and under the Gambling Act in the mofussil. The question whether the provisions of the Acts should be still more tightened so that cotton betting could be effectively checked, is still under the consideration of the Government."

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